



Weekly Press Forum

Emmettsburg (Ia.) Democrat: The trust problem will never be solved by its friends. To hope for the contrary would be to ignore the lessons of history.

Bolivar (Mo.) Herald: The fact of the business is that democrats were right on every question enunciated in the platform of 1896 and time is vindicating that fact as rapidly as possible.

Easton (Md.) Star-Democrat: If the senators were elected by the people they would not dare to pursue their present dilatory tactics in the hope of preventing anti-trust legislation.

Exeter (Neb.) Enterprise: The Burlington railroad seems to have knocked out the Union Pacific-Elkhorn merger for the control of the house, but got left in the senate. The rest of the interests of the state got knocked out in November, so honors are nearly even.

Tipton (Ind.) Times: The democratic argument that the necessities of life should not be taxed is very apparent now. The tax on coal and fuel which has enabled the coal trusts and barons to squeeze the people is a lesson in taxation which all should heed.

Pennsboro (W. Va.) News: Dreams that the Philippine transaction would pay have been disturbed. Uncle Sam is now coughing up three millions to relieve conditions said to be as bad as those that recently prevailed in the West Indies. Ninety per cent of their draft cattle will die.

Travis (Tex.) Democrat: Once only since the great rebellion has the democracy stood enthusiastically for what it believed, and then it made the most remarkable showing in its history. It was in 1896, when the third party had tremendous following; when socialists and independents and social democrats and a half dozen other parties had organizations which were to be reckoned with.

Lamar (Mo.) Leader: As the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, the 8th of January, comes around each year, we naturally think of Old Hickory, and especially do we wonder this year how that truly strenuous president would deal with the trusts. Doubtless the old fellow would say, "By the eternal, I'll choke the life out of them," and then proceed to do it.

Fremont (Neb.) Leader: Whenever one of your republican friends begins to complain because "money is tight," and a whole lot of them are beginning to complain, just tell him that "there is plenty of money in the country to do the business of the country, and it's only confidence that we want." He'll recognize the familiar song. He sung it to us day and night a few years ago.

Santa Fe (N. M.) New Mexican: J. Pierpont Morgan will give his clerks as a New Year's present a small per cent of the \$41,000,000 of profits his firm made during the year. In other words, he is trying to steal the halo from Robin Hood who gained his fame not so much by robbing people as any common robber, but by giving part of his booty to the poor. But robbery is robbery nevertheless.

Indianapolis (Ind.) Sentinel: Teddy finds that the trusts have closed all the shackle factories.

Durango (Colo.) Democrat: Mr. Roosevelt's attorney general will never harpoon a trust, assault a merger or antagonize a combine.

Rolla (Mo.) Herald-Democrat: The president says, in his message, that some corporations "often with a tendency to monopoly" are not really bad. Monopolies not bad! How white black is, sometimes.

Tarkio (Mo.) Independent: One Grover Cleveland is grooming himself for public notice again. Grover has been dead politically ever since he sold the democratic party to the republicans, and his periodical parade in grave clothes is one of the political jokes of the times.

Broken Bow (Neb.) Beacon: And why not an income tax? Take the instance of a man whose income is a million a year, and we have scores of them whose income is more, he is unable to make use of it or any considerable part of it. In England they tax them. In this country it is unconstitutional.

Tipton (Ind.) Times: Those who desire high taxation expect some special privileges by which they can enhance their own wealth. Taxation limited to the legitimate expenditures of an economical administration is all that is necessary in any free country, and it is all that a burdened people should tolerate.

Blue Lake (Cal.) Advocate: From these admissions it appears that the republican framers of tariff bills, and republican platforms are a set of slippery fellows. We have suspected us much for several years. Ever since the slippery trick by which they demonetized silver in 1873 we have been convinced of their "alertness" in putting up jobs of deceptive trickery.

Indianapolis (Ind.) Standard: The Indiana reorganizers were cock sure that the biennial elections would show a less republican majority than the one of 1900. In past elections, this has always held good. If the result had shown them to be right they would have said, "See! we can do better without the Kansas City platform," but, "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-glee."

David City (Neb.) Press: Present company suits us very well. We are an advocate of pure, anti-trust, Jeffersonian democracy, with no political axes to grind. Whoever believes in the Kansas City platform is our brother, and smells sweet as attar of roses and new mown hay—if a good man otherwise. If he is opposed to the new democratic spirit, he may go back to the copperhead mummies of the past and welcome.

Medicine Lodge (Kas.) Index: The trusts have the American people by the throat so effectually that by one twist of the wrist they can paralyze business throughout the length and breadth of the country. And yet there are multitudes of people in this country who will go on worshipping at the feet of a party boss and keep voting to perpetuate that sort of a social and governmental system. The wild beasts of the forests have better sense than that.

Buffalo Lake (Minn.) News: Recent statistics go to show that it costs 25 per cent more to live in these times than it did five years ago. This is one of the penalties of trust prosperity; it means simply that the difference between the cost of living now and five years ago is the amount of tribute which the trusts are exacting from the people.

Batavia (O.) Sun: Among other highly important news which comes to use from Washington is the statement that the army regulations for the firing of salutes have been amended in several respects. An ex-president of the United States is now entitled to a salute of twenty-one guns. Nothing so far has been done looking to the repeal of the tariff on anthracite coal, which according to high republican authority was smuggled into the Dingley bill.

Batavia (O.) Sun: It should be observed that there is an almost unanimous opinion among republican statesmen in Washington that it is in no wise necessary to reduce any tariff rate in order to reach the trusts. The emphasis with which this is repeated justifies a suspicion that orders have gone forth to resist it in concert. Our friends, the enemy, ever have a tender solicitude for the welfare of those who furnish the stuff to achieve victories for sound money.

Lewisburg (W. Va.) Independent: It's a pitifully small and narrow spirit that gloats over the apparent vindication of a policy instead of weeping over the constant decline in value of one of the world's great money metals and one of the chief products of our own country, as the Journal suggests. The "howl of joy," too, is singularly out of place when it is borne in mind that the chief cause of the decline in the bullion value of silver is unfriendly governmental action.

Malone (N. Y.) Forum: Monopoly has intensified the need of strenuous measures to preserve even a semblance of the people's rights. They can expect no help from the republican party since that party accepted a contribution of \$20,000,000 from the trusts to regain power. Monopoly now owns the republican party and the people's only hope is in democracy. Under these conditions the so-called democrat who would model his platform on that of the republicans is a traitor to his party and to the people.

Chambersburg (Pa.) Valley Spirit: If the people want relief they must look to the democratic party and remedy proposed by it, namely, removing the tariff from all articles manufactured or produced by the trust. Without the protective tariff trusts could not exist, but without the money of the trusts to corrupt the individual voter and buy entire states the republican party could not exist. So protection must not be interfered with and the people will continue to pay these heavy exactions until they make a change at the polls. The remedy is with them, and if they elect a democratic president and house of representatives in 1905, then will relief come, otherwise the trust will continue to live and fatten while the people, the real producers of the wealth of the country, will grow poorer every day.

Lisbon (O.) Patriot: Trusts are no better than highway robbers. They are formed to stifle and destroy competition and in that way to levy tribute at will on the masses of the people. If we are required to make obeisance to the American Tin Plate company before the tin mill starts up Gabriel's horn will blow often before the wheels of the mill begin their turning. If combined wealth is determined to rule or ruin the sooner we know it the better. We are devoted to the interests of our town, but we will not deviate from the right to please a selfish trust which might temporarily help us.

Eureka (Ill.) Democrat-Journal: We are told from Washington that "Senator Hoar's anti-trust bill is not at all satisfactory to the president and the attorney general." Of course not. It is too dangerous to the trusts. It is to be defeated, and that eminent embodiment of civic virtue, Matt Quay, is to lead in the opposition. In pointing out his fitness for this task, the Washington correspondent notes that "Quay represents the coal trust and steel trust, and the industries of his state which are protected to an extravagant degree." But why should Illinois citizens vote upon themselves burdens to protect Pennsylvania trusts and to keep such men as Quay in power?

Buffalo (Wyo.) Voice: The democratic party is now a hundred years old. It was born of human demands—of the opposition to the alien and sedition laws—limited monarchy, and so many ideas in common with the aims and purposes which now controls the movements of the dominant party. One hundred years ago the masses won that broader conception of liberty which fostered in the brain of Thomas Jefferson, and grew to full fruition under his direction as head of the government. It was the first relief from vassalage a dreary world had known since Caesar made himself master of Rome—barring the little republic of Switzerland. It is the party of the people and will continue to live and grow in the hearts of America's millions.

Sherwood (O.) Chronicle: If the Durbar is an act of statesmanship so wise and so true, why not have Roosevelt and Secretary Hay, who is quite English, make arrangements for a Durbar in the Philippines far outshining in splendor and pomp the recent English doings in India. We should not be wanting in statesmanship which the Blade editor calls the wisest and truest. We should have in the Philippines a great ceremonial with which to impress the natives of our power and determination to govern them, by force. We should have a great throne on a most richly caparisoned dais emblazoned with arms, jewels and most costly gems. Then we should invite the chiefs and native rulers in the Philippines to assemble on a "great day" before our despotic and imperial governor general.

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